

ACTION GIRL COMICS
\$2.75
ISSUE 512



Action Girl



Action Girl

COMICS

Voilà! You have discovered *le sixième numéro de ActionDemoselle!* Thank you so much for picking it up! (You faithful readers can skip to the next paragraph — new readers, this is obligatory! There will be a pop-quiz later!) *Action Girl Comics* is an anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, and is girl-positive and female-friendly — but never anti-boy. The idea is to be as inclusive as humanly possible, and to get the ideas and stories by my contributors and me out to as many people as we can. I am totally opposed to exclusivity — I hate feeling left out of something, and I don't want anyone else to have to feel that way. Also, it is wholly my comic — this is not a Slave Labor anthology that I happen to edit. It is a creator-owned book, which happens to contain not just my work, but the work of people I wish to include. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities. Hopefully, you will enjoy what I have to offer — so please enjoy, no matter who or what you are!

And please, take the "action" in Action Girl to heart — action of any kind! Do all those things you've been wanting to! Whether it's a big or little thing, taking control of your life and doing things can really make you feel better about yourself. Start a band, start recycling, start a new hobby. Teach yourself how to do something interesting or fun. Do whatever you want — just do!

Me, I've been doing — I've been quite the busy girl since last time, working on all sorts of things. Some small, but action-packed, like I taught myself how to roast a (huge) turkey and make pie. I did a pin-up for the upcoming Very Vicky Special, which is *très tropical!* I painted the set of Milk & Cheese trading cards Evan did recently, including an Action Girl chase card, drawn by both of us, and speaking of M&C, designed and painted a board game that was inserted into *Wizard* #54. Evan and I have been writing episodes of the Cartoon Network's *Space Ghost: Coast-to-Coast* (four so far), and are expecting to do several more next year. And of course, I've been doing this quarterly comic you're holding, as well as attempting vainly to keep on top of my mail and other projects! I know you're thinking, "hmm, that really doesn't seem

like enough to keep one person busy." And you're right! So, in addition to the regular four issues scheduled for 1996, there is going to be an *Action Girl Special* (hopefully I'll think of a catchy name soon). A sort of Action Girl's Pals and Gals thing, with co-ed contributions from all my favorite boys — Evan Dorkin (of course), Jaime Hernandez, John Moore, Jay Stephens, John Mitchell & Jana Christy (hey! that's a goil!), David Mazzucchelli, and more...it'll be so ginchy it'll knock you backwards.

This is totally irrelevant, but I heard this tip on the radio and it's worked great for me so I had to share it — if you, like many people, find the chunks in salsa annoying because that's always all that's left (or you just don't like chunks), dump the entire jar of salsa into a blender, puree on high for about 30 seconds, and dump back into the jar. Goofy but useful.

Thanks go to all the usual suspects, and of course, YOU! My obligatory "soundtrack" for this issue includes — Bryan Ferry (*Taxi*), the Beau Hunks' Little Rascals soundtracks the new Splendor CD, the Bunnygrunt LP *Action Pants* (go buy it), and various Toho soundtracks. My current snack foods include the aforementioned blended salsa w/ chips, mint m&m's, those "Xmas" Oreos with the red filling (cookies of satan), and of course, the drink of Olympus, Coca-Cola. My latest hobby is completing my She-Ra collection. The cover to this issue was by Elizabeth Watasin and Sarah Dyer (that would be me). Good luck in the coming new year of the — well, really it's the rat, but I like to think of it as the year of the cute mouse. Think warm thoughts, Spring'll be here soon — and look for the lucky seventh issue in mid-April!

— xoxo, Sarah

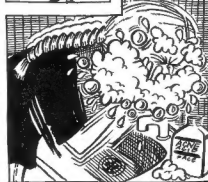
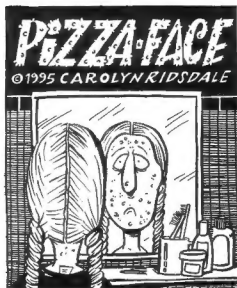


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SEND LETTERS, COMMENTS, SUBMISSIONS,
AND PRESENTS OF SANRIO TO:

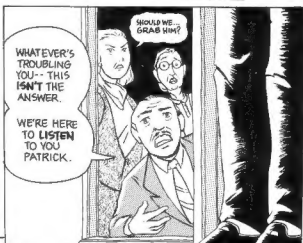
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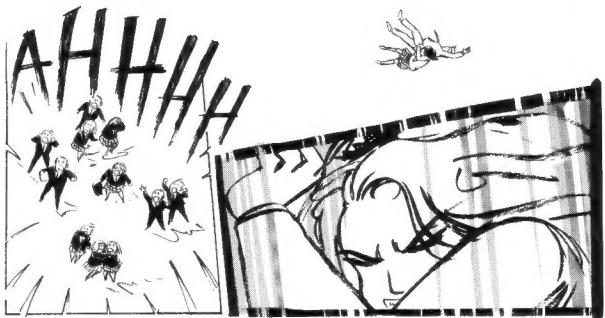
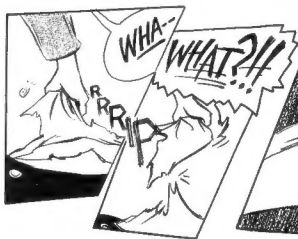








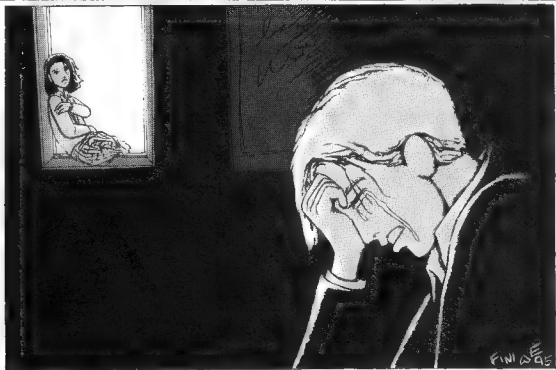
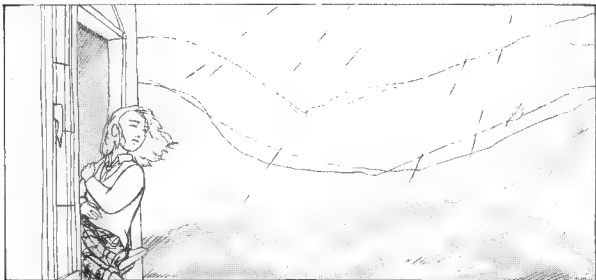












ACTION GIRL'S

Role Models
of Style.

a cut and color activity page
- #6 in a series, you will
need: magic scent crayolas
(okay, any crayons or mark-
ers), and safety scissors.

"SEAM MY
HAIRSTYLE
UP, SCOTTY!"

OBVIOUSLY,
A WIG, BUT
STILL KEEN!

SET
MINI-SKIRTS
ON STON, GIRLS!
SUPPOSEDLY,
ALL WOMEN WEAR
MINI-SKIRTS IN
THE STAR TREK
FUTUREVERSE
BECAUSE THEY'RE
SO LIBERATED.
OOO-KAY!!

I THINK STAR
TREK WOMEN
WORE EITHER
FISHNETS OR
SHEER BLACK
HOSE - BUT I
WOULD HAVE BEEN
WEARING THE
MOST OPAQUE
TIGHTS IN SPACE!

DIANA RIGG HAS
THE BEST HAIR

COOLER
THAN CANNY!
TOUGHER
THAN TARA!

OKAY, SO I
WOULDN'T
ACTUALLY WEAR
ANY OF THESE -
ONE OF THEM
IDEALIZED THE
LOOK TO THE BAMA
WARDROBE GETS A
PEEL THUMB'S UP
DEFINITELY FROM
ME. WHETHER
BLACK AND WHITE,
BLACK AND PURPLE,
OR YELLOW AND
BLACK... YOW!

THE
ONLY THING
COOLER THAN
THESE HOOD BOOTS
ARE THE ONES ACTUALLY
BUILT INTO HER LEGGINGS.
HOW DO THEY DO THAT???

© SARAH
DIER 1995

I CONFESS! THE FIRST STYLISTIC INFLUENCE
ON ME WAS, YES, YEOMAN JANICE RAIN FROM
STAR TREK, WHICH MY BROTHER AND I
WATCHED EVERY AFTERNOON. SHE IS SO
ICONIC, IT WAS ONLY ABOUT A YEAR AGO
THAT I DISCOVERED SHE WAS ONLY IN
A HANDFUL OF EPISODES! NO WAY! I THOUGHT
SHE WAS SO COOL - I HAD NO IDEA
SHE WAS BASICALLY A SECRETARY!
BUT THAT WACKY BLONDE HAIR, AND
THOSE SHORT SKIRTS PROBABLY
WARPED ME FOR GOOD!

ACTION GIRL: IN STYLE
STYLE IS IMPORTANT! (AS OPPOSED TO
FASHION, WHICH IS NOT.) I LIKE TO
THINK I HAVE A DEFINITE STYLE, WHICH
CHANGES AND EVOLVES, BUT STYLE
REFLECTS MY PERSONALITY. ALWAYS
CHANGES, BUT INFLUENCES,
THERE'VE BEEN
MY STYLE, AND
FOR THE MOST
ACTUALLY COINED
HAD AN EFFECT.

THAT
HAIR IS
SETTING
SO
LONG!

ULTRA-COOL
GOO BOOTS!!
GO-GO-GO!!

SOMETIMES, BY
LUCK OF THE DRAW,
SOMETHING THAT
FITS YOUR STYLE
BECOMES FASHION.
CASE IN POINT: MY
HACKED-OFF-LEGGINGS
AND UNDERTHINGS.
THIS SEASON, TWO
CATALOGS ARE
CARRYING A
READY-MADE
VERSION!

EMMA PEELE

FUZZY
LITTLE ANKLE
SOCKS TO KEEP
MY DELICATE TOOTSIES
TOASTY WARM!

YOU
KNOW,
IF YOU ADDED
A LITTLE
SKIRT TO
THE EMMA PEELE
CATSUIT, IT'D
JUST ABOUT
BE MY
IDEAL
OUTFIT!

COULD I
HAVE POSSIBLY
CRAMMED MORE
TEXT ON THIS PAGE?

SINCE I GOT
MY FIRST SHONEN
KNIFE LIP IN 1986,
I'VE BEEN TOTALLY
IMPRESSED WITH
THEIR SENSE
OF STYLE.
HOME-MADE
MATCHING OUTFITS
HOW COOL CAN
YOU GET???

STYLE JUST
OOZES OUT
OF THEIR
PORES.

SHONEN KNIFE!

YOU'LL NOTICE
THIS DRESS IS
LONG ENOUGH
TO SKIP TIGHTS
IF YOU WANT.
ME, I'D ADD
TIGHTS ANYWAY...

"THAT
GIRL"
FLID

♪ SUMMER
TIME
BOOGIE, ♪
BOOGIE'D BOOGIE!

MY
ALL TIME
FAVORITE
SHONEN KNIFE
OUTFIT! IF I
EVER WERE TO
COPY ONE OF
THEIR DESIGNS,
THIS WOULD BE IT!!

SERIOUS STYLE:
SHANGRI-LAS
ROULET FROM THE GIFT
CHRIS ISAAK
ELVIS PRESLEY
MADNESS
... AND
ULTRA-
FORCE!

... HAVE
YOU GUESSED
YET THAT TIGHTS
ARE A MAJOR PART
OF MY PERSONAL STYLE?

BARE
LEGS TO
GO UNDER
ALL THESE
PAIRS OF
TIGHTS!

AWESOME ANNA
SUI JACKET - COOD
TIPPED ME OFF WHEN
IT WENT ON SALE!

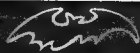
REMINISCENCE
MINI-KILT - WHEN
I SAW IT I KNEW
IT WAS THE
SKIRT I'D BEEN
LOOKING FOR
NOW I HAVE,
UH, UH, A FEW.
COME IN
ALL KINDS
OF PLAINS!

YES, YES,
I THINK
YOU
KNOW
WHAT'S
ON THE
LEGS
HERE
COCO!!

COCO, BEING
SLIGHTLY LESS
TALL THAN I, ACTUALLY
WEARS HEELS THAT
ARE PRETTY STACKED.
NO, NO, NOT ME!

COCO (NOT
CHANEL) IS A
REAL-LIFE "STYLE
ROLE MODEL."

I ONLY SEE
HER A FEW
DAYS OUT OF EVERY
365, BUT I'D STILL
LIKE HER TO WILL ME
HER WARDROBE. MORE
STYLE THAN ANY TEN
OTHER PEOPLE TOGETHER.
I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT AN
INSPIRATION HER EXAMPLE
HAS BEEN TO ME! I DON'T
FEEL COMPLETELY LAKE AND
HIGH SCHOOL-ESQUE, THOUGH,
NOW THAT SHE'S HAD TO GET
A TOTORO BACKPACK AND A
JAPANESE SCHOOLGIRL-UNIFORM
TOP JUST LIKE MINE!



THE BAT

TRUE TALE FROM

Tobey







EIGHT QUESTIONS

A "to the best of my recollection"
by ROBERTA GREGORY

In 1971, I was in my First year of college. Everyone went to College back then.



I became acquainted with this guy in one of my classes. I'll call him "Charlie".



He was sort of average. He was into computers back when it was all kind of new.



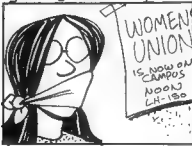
We had lunch a few times in the Student Union and chatted. No big deal.



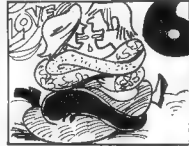
I wasn't even sure I was even all that INTERESTED in men, to be honest.



But people didn't really talk about things like that. Feminism was just getting started, too.



But, if you happened to be HETERO, the SEXUAL REVOLUTION was in full swing!



Charlie asked me to go out for pizza. I felt weird about it, but I went anyway.



Some things about him seemed sort of strange. But, I always give people the benefit of the doubt.



He DID make a really weird statement in class that made me feel VERY creepy.



Then he asked me to go to a movie. Zool. I'd seen it before but thought it'd be rude to say "no".



And THEN he wanted to kiss me. I thought we were friends. I didn't know he wanted THIS!



I felt REAL spooky about it. Almost like some VOICE had told me not to do it.



I felt disillusioned. I had been idealistic that men and women could just be FRIENDS..



...without SEX having to enter into things. I told Charlie this was NOT going to work out.



I told him he "turned me off" which was 1971 talk. It was true. He seemed REAL creepy now.



I think he called a couple more times, but I stopped returning his calls.



A year later, things were a lot different. There was a Gay Student Union on campus.



I felt a whole lot less weird. I had friends who were men who weren't out to get me into bed.



And then, one day the television news was on, and who was on but... Charlie!



He had taken a gun and gone to a shopping center and SHOT a lot of people.



A few of them had died. He had said he was aiming for women with long brown hair.



I had long, brown hair! But, in those days, MOST of the women had long hair.



A couple of days later, an ex-girlfriend of his was interviewed in the school paper.



I felt a BIT better. She had gone out with him several months before the shootings.



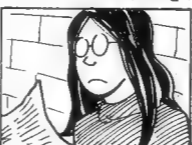
She said he didn't seem very experienced with women. I wondered if she had long, brown hair.



Besides the fact that he had been caught, I didn't know any more about what happened to him.



I wondered if he really wanted to shoot ME? I lived in the same place now as I had a year ago.



He would have known where to find me, right? OR, did some other woman die instead of me?



Should I have been dead at 18? The newspapers are FULL of women killed by the men in their lives.



How can a woman know a man won't kill her? What IS one "benefit-of-the-doubt" too many?



Had I been able to tell there was something "wrong" with him? OR, was I just not "into" men?



In the years since then, I've been treated REALLY badly by people I was in relationships with.



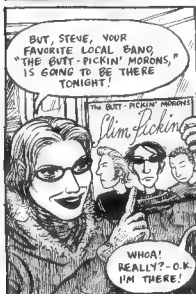
But, it never occurred to me to pick up a GUN and KILL somebody (except maybe MYSELF!)



And, I haven't changed my hair since then, either. It's still long and (MOSTLY) brown.



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Your Hostesses:



Carolyn Ridsdale ("Pizza Face") is an Australian expatriate now living in Amsterdam after serving time as an illustrator & comic strip creator. Her work appears regularly in *GirlFrenzy* and *Fanny*, and her own comic, *Moist*, is now available in the US.



Elizabeth Watson (cover, "Morning") is a professional artist living in L.A. All she wants to do is daydream the live long days away and make being forlorn an art form. And watch cartoons. Her own mini-

comics, *Adventures of A-Girl!* (issues 1-4, plus *A-Girl Etc!*, a compilation of reader's cartoons) are available for \$1 ppd each from Elizabeth at: 120 So. San Fernando Blvd #231, Burbank, CA 91502.



Sarah Dyer (cover, "Action Girl Activity Page") is an eternally over-worked, Coca-Cola- and Sanrio-addicted transplant to New York. Her work has appeared in *Disney Adventures*, on the Cartoon Network, on various low-selling CD covers and more

places you'll never see. For a catalog of all of Sarah's self-publishing (including: the music/essay zine *Mad Planet*; the personal *Kikizine*; and all the components of the *Action Girl* empire) send a SASE or e-mail request to the address(es) inside the cover.



Chris Tobey ("Bats") lives in California with her husband & cats. When she's not busy skulking around AOL or writing stories with no point to them, she spends her free time trying to make up an interesting biography for herself. Her other works

include past appearances in *Action Girl Comics*, as well as appearances in *Duck Butter Funnies*, *Little Bitty Brian*, & *Hi-Jim Hi-Jinx*.

Roberta Gregory

("Eight Questions") has been doing comics for over 20 years now, and rarely ventures into autobiography except for special occasions (although many of her regular readers believe otherwise). She is perhaps best known for the Bitchy Bitch adventures which appear in the quarterly *Fantagraphics* comic *Naughty Bits*. "Eight Questions" is actually something of a companion piece to issue #18, available now, so there's no time like the present to check it out! For info on *Naughty Bits* or any of Roberta's other comics send a sase to her at: POB 27438, Seattle Wa 98125.



Jessica Abel ("Too Punk

to Funk") lives in Chicago and self-publishes the Xeric-award-winning *Artbabe*, which does NOT feature the many and various adventures of *Artbabe* herself, but does have some decent stories anyway. However, she

has so incredibly many fans AROUND the WORLD, that all issues of *Artbabe* except the most recent, #4, are sold out. So if you want one, hurry up and send \$2 (ppd) before it's TOO LATE to: Jessica Abel, P. O. Box 642773, Chicago, IL 60664-2773.



Action Girl Online!

In true 90s fashion, *Action Girl* has her own web page! Artwork, info, links to AG-approved sites, and lots more! Cool stuff that's not in the comic! (If you've been there before — all-new stuff will be up when this issue hits the stands.) If you have web access, come on over! Check all the *Action* out at (yes, type it in as one line):

<http://www.io.com/~rmartin/actiongirl.html>

Also, check out current *Action Girl* files at my ftp site! FTP to:

[user.aol.com/alilena](ftp://user.aol.com/alilena)

See you there!

Further Reading:

Mini-comics: Besides all the wonderful minis by our own contributors, there's lots of cool minis around these days. Here's a few I think are cool: **Damned Bunnies** (pt. 1 & 2), by Suzanne Baumann, is a set of satisfyingly thick square-shaped comics with one continuous tale about an artist who cuts off a critic's ear — the art is really attractive, with a heavy and fluid brush line. \$2.25 ppd each from 8328 Foster Rd, Clarkston MI 48346. **Totally Fanned**, by Jen, is a very mini mini-comic, combining retro-teen-graphics-with-a-twist (see example to the right) and short strips inspired by Jen's life. The art is generally clean and very cute. Send 2 stamps to 4204 SE 26th, Portland OR 97202. **Thumper**, by Jo Claxton, is a collection of mostly satirical work that's just bristling with aggressive hostility, and is on such subjects as postal workers and pro-life protesters. \$2 from POB 23367, Seattle WA 98102. Our own Ms. Phink recently sent me her latest **Hazmat** (#8), a zine/comic thing that's way cool — articles, recipes, and more of her fabbo comics. Send \$2 to: 1556 Halford Ave #154, Santa Clara CA 95051. Another zine/comic thing I got is **Bonnie the Stalker** (#1) by Allison & Myra. The art's a little rough, but their work has so much going for it, I predict that these two will be major-league comic-girls in the future. Get ill on their action now — send \$1 to: 1721 McCollum St, Los Angeles CA 90026.



Not-so-mini-comics: The very last "comic-size" issue of *Oh...* was #11, a mega-crossover between regular *Oh...* girl characters Tomboy, Agent Street and Immola, (and jam between the respective artists/creators, Dianne Reum, Joan Hilty and Hope — see Dianne Reum's wonderful character Tomboy to the left). To find out how to get your own, write: POB 41030, 5134 Cordova Bay Rd, Victoria BC V8Y 2K0, CANADA.

Girl-friendly by guys: *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* is ending next month (Feb 96) — now how many times do I have to tell you how important it is that you read this? *Viz* is putting out the entire series in paperback collections. Go and get it now. On the co-ed tip, *Reality Check!*, by Tavisha Wolfgarth and Rosearik Rikki, is a surprisingly likable and

cute comic about a boy and his cat — I say "surprisingly" because on the surface it looks like another "furry" book; you know, the ones where the sexy cat-like girls have sexy romps etc, etc, barf, barf. But look past the cover and flip through the book before you put it back down — it's actually a cute, all-ages, sci-fi-with-cats adventure. Check out Tavisha's cat-girl Catreece on the letters page. Cute, no?

From the quarter bin: As I said last time, looking for crossover issues of the "mod" Wonder Woman led me to her appearance in *Adventure Comics* #397 (1970) in which Supergirl goes to Diana Prince's boutique for a new outfit — and now I'm hooked on Supergirl! She's got a solid 40-issue-or-so run in *Adventure Comics*, followed by her first solo book (called *Supergirl* — you'd never have guessed, right?). The *Adventure Comics* are great — there's basically three eras: the goofy post-50s-style stories — really sweet and fun, with Supergirl in her original dress; the revamped "New Supergirl" — obviously modelled on the "New WW", with freaky art by Mike Sekowsky and stories that deal with "social issues" (nice try anyway); and the post-"new"-Supergirl, with a new outfit every few issues — these are generally a return to the old-style stories, although they seem a lot more up-to-date. I like all three eras! Some highlights: #400 pits our girl against a female arch-villain, the Black Flame. Great villain(ess), and the most demented art...#397 not only introduces Kara's new look, but the back-up introduces her part-time nemesis Nasthalia, Lex Luthor's niece. Can you believe it?! #410 leads off with another installment in the Nasthalia saga, follows that up with a reprint of "The Revolt of the Girl Legionnaires", and wraps things up with a really cute story about a mini-super-girl!! The *Supergirl* comic is also pretty cool, especially when you add in the Zatanna back-ups in every issue. On the non-super-side of things, shortly after Supergirl graduates to her solo book, *Adventure Comics* begins to feature the (original) Black Orchid. Great costume, nice idea — pretty rotten art. Worth about exactly a quarter. A few years earlier, issue #32 of *Metal Men* contains a somewhat cute (if very dated) story called "The Metal Women Blues," in which each Metal Man gets a female counterpart, and then the whole bunch has to fight the Robot Amazons. Jinkies!

Recommended viewing: Just in case you'd like to catch a little television, here're a few AG-approved cartoons...First and foremost, of course, is *Sailor Moon*, a Japanese import that's showing in syndication all over North America. A longtime favorite of mine, *Sailor Moon* is an adventure show featuring a team of five girls — some people think the show is too "girly", but that's exactly *why* I approve. Little girls like clothes, and get crushes, and do goofy things. I should know, I used to be one. The best portrayal of teen-age girls I've ever seen. The best portrayal of pre-teens would have to go to *The New Adventures of Madeline* (ABC) which is an adorable and faithful interpretation of the Ludwig Bemelmans character. Unfortunately, those losers took it off the air, but promise it'll be back on as a mid-season replacement. So check that TV guide! In the meantime, catch reruns of the original series, *Madeline*, on the Family Channel. Finally, *Reboot*, which is one weird piece of work, gives solid equal time to it's female characters (good and bad). Evil Hex, cool entrepreneur Dot and cute little AndraAla are all swellerfic!

Action Mail

Sarah Dyer, POB 060380
Staten Island, NY 10306
e-mail: alilena@aol.com

Dear Sarah —
I sent AGC #4 & 5 off to my sister today (along with Hepcats #1 special edition and Bone #1), as I'm trying to get her hooked on comics, and I thought she'd like those. I personally think Hepcats is woman-friendly, if not girl-friendly (because of the "mature readers" label). Almost forgot — I included AGC #4 because of the paper dolls, as I love those! I've also enclosed my humble sketch of Action Girl's favorite doll, Action Kitty! [check it out to the right — S.] I'm not much of an artist, though I am good at other arts/crafts, so perhaps it's just lack of experience. Being good at art wasn't encouraged in school when I was young, and I even remember being actively discouraged from drawing. Thanks for providing a comic book that could help encourage girls and women to draw or otherwise express themselves. take care

Denise Voskuil

PS: I like your encouragements to take action. I actually taught myself how to do origami, cross-stitch, calligraphy, and lately, writing WWWV pages! Little or large, achievements can be great mood-lifters and ego-boosters.

This is very true — one of the most empowering experiences I ever had was when a rental co. "accidentally" didn't have the little trailer I'd rented to move up to NYC with, and gave me a 24'-long tractor-trailer instead! I was terrified at first, but driving that huge truck all by myself up the east coast really made me feel great! And the truckers all gave me total respect too. They were all like, "you're driving that? all right!" Anyway, Denise has quite a nice comic-oriented web page up that you should check out: go on over to:

<http://www.mcs.net/~dvoskuil/>
and look for the AGC plug!

Dear Sarah,

I picked up AGC #4 last month here in Montreal. Of course, it was at the "alternative" book/comic shop, and not at the "regular" shop.

Well, what can I say about AGC? After years of reading comics from only the "big" publishers, I'm now giving the indie stuff a look-at, and it's all because of you. When I first got Action Girl Newsletter a few years ago, I didn't read that many female-written zines. Now, all I read are female-written zines. Now, with AGC you have gotten me into female-done comics, and I love them.

After reading all four issues, I can say that the variety of artists and stories is super. There are 3 women whose work stands out. Jessica Abel is an amazing artist! Her cover for #3 was beautiful. Elizabeth Watsin has a really fun style of writing and drawing. "Susanoo the Brawler" was funny as hell. Now, my final fave of AGC is you!! The fact

that you do all that that you do, and are now doing even more in the story and art dept is amazing. Your cover for #4 was great and so was the story.

Anyway, I'm really looking forward to AGC, AGN and whatever else you decide to do. You should be extremely proud of yourself!

Take care

Joseph Greenspon

Thanks to one of my most faithful supporters for this nice letter of comment. Wow, I'm gonna blush! Cut it out! Pshaw... (what does "psaw" sound like, by the way?)

hi sarah, i just want to tell you that i LOVE action girl, and i get tons o' compliments on my groovy t-shirt. i saw your email address and thought hey! i should let her know how awesome her comic book is, and how much i LOVE reading it. i have to tell you that the paper dolls are the COOLEST and i always go to that page first. anyway, keep up the totally excellent work!!!! peace, love and fat albert, heidi

Well, you'll be glad to see the latest activity page then! Next one will be in issue #8 — watch out!

Hey, I've been meaning to email you to say how much I've been enjoying ACTION GIRL. I became aware of the book through Jessica Abel's ARTBABB, and shortly after buying the latest issue I was headed back to Comicopia here in Boston to pick up the rest of the series. Great art, swell stories, and a welcome POV. And, might I add, it's wonderful to find at least one independent book out there where you can just enjoy the comic without being clobbered in the head by the artist's personal politics. In a nutshell, ACTION GIRL is ten pounds of ginchiness in a six-pound bag. Keep 'em coming.

(I only wish ACTION GIRL tee shirts were available in kids' sizes. When I saw Evan's design I immediately wanted to buy one for my four-year-old niece. Whenever I take her on an outing, she moves with the calm reserve of the people in one of those time-lapse films of Grand Central Station, and it's hard to prevent the Action Girl theme song from running through my head as I chase after her...)

— Andy Ilnatko

"Ten pounds of ginchiness in a six-pound bag"? I love it! It's right up there with "a literary pu-pu-platter" for favorite comment. You're not the only person to ask about a little action girl shirt — I'll see what I can do. So...what is the AG theme, anyway?

hiya. How are you. I'd like to know two things, if you don't mind:

- 1) What is sanrio?
- 2) Are you sure that you really like Coke better than Pepsi? Out here in Michigan, Pepsi tastes alot better (and that has nothing to do with the fact that I along with all my friends work for them).

Action Girl Comics is a really cool book. I've only gotten one issue thus far, but the next time I can get to Ann Arbor (a 25 minute drive for me) where they sell the good comic books, I'm gonna catch up on past issues. Anyways, have a good day and stuff. Thanks for not being anti-boy. See you 'round.

Matt Wilson

Sanrio=Hello Kitty. If that means nothing to you, I can't explain it. Actually, I can't explain it anyway. And yes, I really prefer coke to pepsi. I think pepsi tastes like crap. Although I must admit, coke bottled (well, conned) in ohio tastes pretty awful too — so maybe you're getting bad coke out there. Why do I know these things?



Oh boy (and girl)! A contest!!

Announcing the stupendous interactive Action Girl Activity Page! Remember all those reader-designed outfits in Archie comics? I always thought that was really cool, so I'm giving you the chance to have your fun! Design an outfit (with or without commentary) for AG, and I'll pick my favorites and draw them in an Activity Page...boys and girls are eligible to send in their designs! Winning designers get, uh, their names in print and a complimentary copy sent from my home to theirs. **UPDATE:** Because I'm going to have to push back the publication of the winners' designs, I've extended the deadline to March 31st (96)! And I've decided to throw into the winners' packages an AG-compiled mini-set of girl character trading cards, featuring AG herself!! Get those pencils scratching!

Action Mail

Please keep up the good work. I find myself buying less and less these days, completely turned off of the Marvel and DC stuff with a few exceptions. Action Girl, HATE, [Evan] Dorkin's stuff, Eightball, and the occasional Flaming Carrot (now published semi-annually) is about all I look forward to. I find myself reading more and more real books to keep my brain alive.

Thanks for putting out a book that I enjoy. I don't read your book because it's girl friendly, or guy friendly. I don't read it because of any message or statements. I simply read it because it's damn good, and that will ensure it stands the test of time, and there aren't many comics that will do that.

Thanks much,
Robert Berry

Are you sure my mom didn't put you up to this?

hi sarah!

I love your comic—the all ages thing is great, i think. and your covers always look so nice — and, and, you are a fellow sanrio fiend! i work in downtown san francisco just two blocks away from the sanrio DEPARTMENT STORE. it is heaven. it is where i spend my lunch breaks. have you ever tried sanrio bubblegum? it's the best. when is the next issue coming out? and are you accepting submissions? one of these days i'm going to get my act together and submit something... your comic anthology always gives me so much inspiration. thanks for putting it out. (do you still do mad planet?)

ciao bella! keep up the cool comics!

— Ann Wilson

Ooh — I've heard about the San Francisco Sanrio store—the American mecca of the stuff. To answer your questions: AGC comes out quarterly, and should show up every January, April, July and October. As far as submissions go, right now AGC is pretty much an invitational-only thing (and yes, girls-only for those of you who've asked), but I'm always happy to look at people's work, and who knows, I might invite you to join! I can't ask you if I don't know about you...if you send me something to look at (or review) just be

patient — it takes me a long time to answer all the mail I get, but I will answer eventually! And finally, yes, I still do Mad Planet! Send \$1 (to me) for the latest copy.

I just recently picked up a copy of Action Girl after ordering a few copies to put on the stand and I got a kick out of most of the stories. In particular I enjoyed Patty Leidy's stuff the most it had me rolling, and in issue five I also highly enjoyed Amanda's story, and the fishhead story was pretty wild, heck it was all pretty groovy, and I liked it muchly or profusely or just a hell of a lot. I'll either try to reorder them or just track them down like a blood hound on the scent of a one armed fugitive at the Mid Ohio Con (a fun little convention that I would recommend to all). Could anybody fill me in on what I might expect to pay for all the issues in their earliest printings? And does anyone know if Catfight is still available from Leidy (This wild thought of Jerry Lewis yelling "Patty Leidy" just went through my brain, what a hideous thought). Thanks for a fun book, and I look forward to the adventure of finding back issues.

"Obnoxia!"

Hopefully, all printings of AGC are either available at cover price or unavailable because everyone bought them and loved them. In any case, all issues are in print, and they are exactly the same, you know. Ordering info is right over there →. Patty's Catfight is still available, but Patty's at a new address! Send inquiries (with sase, please) to her at: 905 Briarcliffe Rd NE #5, Atlanta GA 30306.



Looks that just about wraps up another issue! A big thanks to everyone else who wrote, or e-mailed — the feedback and support are really appreciated, believe me. And don't forget to write the individual artists whose work you like, so they can have the same warm feeling as me (aw, isn't that mushy). Remember, send mail directly to them, not to me — if

Action Cat



someone has no address printed it's cause they don't want mail...and thanks to everyone else who's helped support AGC, especially Paul D. for his swell plug of AGC, and Steve Kongsle for his continuing help to Elizabeth. Check out this cute drawing by Tavisha Wolfgarth of her character Catreece decked out as AG, and then check out the info on her in "further reading". And finally, a big hello to the new offspring of John Mitchell and Jana Christy (you knew there was a reason a new Very Vicky wasn't out), Harry & Hugo, the Meet Danny Ocean Twins™. Congrats, kids! I can't wait to slip Harry his first Mail Tail...

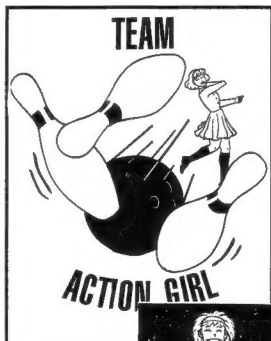


Next Issue: Action Girl Comics #7

Issue seven will include the sequel to "Dress Code" by me & Elim Mak; a new Flying Girl/Action Girl adventure by me; plus new work by Amanda Lewis, Patty Leidy, Kris Dresen, Jen Sorensen, Beth Johnson and more. Cover at left by me.... Ask your comic shop to pre-order it for you! Need back issues? Ask your shop to get them or order direct from Slave Labor Graphics (see info, inside back cover)! Until next time!

♥ Sarah

More Action Stuff!!



"Team Action Girl" ↑
 "Action Girl on the Moon" →



Action Girl

Things to Buy:

1. **Action Girl Comics #1** — the premiere issue of your favorite anthology. Second printing. \$2.75
2. **Action Girl Comics #2** — featuring everyone's favorite short story, "Mortality" by Elizabeth Watasin. "Josie tribute" cover. Second printing. \$2.75
3. **Action Girl Comics #3** — As seen in Newsweek! "Fashion" cover. Second printing. \$2.75
4. **Action Girl Comics #4** — "Pensive AG" cover, Action Girl and Susanoo stories. \$2.75
5. **Action Girl Comics #5** — "Halloween Party" cover, first birthday issue. \$2.75
6. **Action Girl t-shirt #1** — The original "Action Girl on the Moon" design, drawn for me by action boy Evan Dorkin. Purple on white, sizes medium through extra-large. \$13.99
7. **Action Girl t-shirt #2** — the shirt for 1995, with the cool b&w bowling motif — "Team Action Girl", drawn by me. Also M through XL. \$13.99 (Note on shirts: girls; I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. If you've got a small frame you'll be swimming. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need.)



What? You say you don't want to order anything right now but you might want to in the future? Then simply write to Slave Labor and say: "Hey, guys! I love Action Girl! Send me a catalog!" you will receive a **FREE!** Action Girl sticker (of the "Action Girl on the Moon" t-shirt design) and a Slave Labor catalog, featuring all sorts of cool alternative books published by Slave Labor and other publishers. Trust me, this sticker is more than worth a 32¢ stamp! Send your name and mailing address, and please, write *clearly!*

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